

three errors tend to obscure the merit of a speaker. How much more when they all unhappily combine? Then they are sure to oppress the most aspiring and consign the loftiest musings to oblivion. Recollect that our examples are warnings to the wise. So let them be to you. Should you be at a loss for such examples, resort to the forum or popular assembly; in either you will have a host of brilliant examples. They come up like the frogs of Egypt, on the face of all the land—and make muck of melancholy sort.

Nor are they, as some affirm, only from field and wood, and mountain glen. They issue also from high and arduous walks. They issue from the very hams of science, either by the sickly habit of minutely blith, or by the abuse of the sound constitution she gave them. And these are worthy of a double commendation. Science did not crown on them and foreclose their entrance into her domain. They wandered through her fairy walks and fruitful fields, proudly bearing back the spoils of the chase. Yet for any good or pleasure they afford the world, they might as well have gathered honey from the garden flowers and buried it beneath a weight of angustian treasures.

Your patience is already too much worn to dwell upon the positive graces of my subject. We have already said, that the art of persuasion embraces whatever is attractive in thought, in arrangement, in the structure of argument, and in direct appeal to the passions. But this is not all. It requires the orator to bear along with him a certain manner, which going before the words he utters, will act the part of a fascinating herald, to secure those words a well disposed audience; and that no disappointment follow, this winning herald of manner must be sustained by what comes after; namely, an utterance full of melody, rounding out periods, whose rise and cadence shall come upon the soul like the rich and sweet of music from a master hand. We are aware that some affect to despise them. They may as soon teach it to despise that which is beauty to the eye, or music to the ear. But when they teach the world to despise them. They may as soon teach it to abhor all that is enchanting in the aspects of nature. They may as soon convert it to the sentiment, that in the universe of beauty there is nothing which charms. That not only earth, but the heavens decorated by the finger of God, displays nothing worthy to be admired; that its deep, blue firmament, where the stars repose like diamonds in their airy ocean; that the gentle moon half unveiling her thoughtful face, seems to gaze and wonder at the scene; that all this is a concave gloom, unbecomely and offensive to the averted eye of mortals. To despise the lighter graces of oratory is to despise human nature, not in its depraved, but in its unimpaired attributes. It is to despise in the immortal mind, that which retains the image of its author.

Speech, to the mind, is an interpreter. It is a channel through which in fluent and refuent tides, we yield and take that which streams forth from the fountains of thought. First of all there must be prolific fountains; and they must pour forth streams pure and sparkling as the waters of living life. Eloquence implies ornamented speech. But there must be a foundation for ornament; a solid support. There must be wholesome and delicious fruits, around which may tastefully cluster the effervescent charms of graceful diction. It is eloquence when these flowery graces skirt and adorn some affluent stream, current with the waters of truth.

For this enamel attracts thousands to those waters, who can only to regale their senses, but stay to be refreshed. These are the requisites of a natural man, from these I leave you to draw conclusions of the requisites of the cultivated. But you may say me asking how do you expect to do these things, and the necessary consequence of neglect does not follow, to the poor students who do not need such an education? If such were the fact, that the poor boy should receive less education than the affluent, because he is poor, the reply were still easily made, in the submission of the following plan:

You teach here now, spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography, principally, as being the only branches necessary for the gratuitously educated boy. So let it be, all is very good so far as it goes. But suppose in addition to these, you admit the elements of history, with rhetoric, logic, natural philosophy, chemistry and modern history, charging the nominal sum of \$5 each for a session of six months and \$3 for a session of four months.

Also another class composing the former, with the study of mathematics, moral and mental philosophy, together with their kindred sciences, charging each in that class or classes the sum of \$10 for a session of six months, and \$8 for four months. Also, should there be any necessity for it, establish a class in the modern and ancient languages, charging \$15 for six months, and \$12 for four months session.

Further, that this plan should not operate to the prejudice of the Institution in a financial point of view, make no additional appropriation of the funds for salaries, but let the emolument arising from this nominal assessment, accrue to the teachers or teachers who have the classes in charge; which in my humble opinion will be sufficient to secure the services of competent men to take it in charge.

By the adoption of such a plan we may confidently hope a very short period would elapse ere the lowering care of our whole people would be attracted to us; and here in North Mississippi would arise an intellectual light, shedding joy in our hearts, and happiness in our homes.

Act, gentlemen, one and all of you, and to you who act most, the future will not only bring the refreshing consciousness of having accomplished a good and beneficial object; but on many sides will arise from this lowly root, those who with genius-stamped minds and ardent-endowed souls, will bless you, for having brushed from these walls the dust of accumulated years, and swept out from among us the cobwebs of ignorance.

COLUMBUS, July 12th, 1852.

Mr. Editor:

Having positively denied to my friends a copy of the address published in your columns, I conceive it due them to explain such publication.

I denied my friends because of the impossibility of accompanying it with the peculiar situation of the institution, caused by the restrictive policy practised there of late years. The abolition of which, was the object of the address.

To the demand of patrons however, I have no course left but reluctant yielding, trusting in their combined judgment rather than my apprehensions.

By allowing this note of explanation to accompany the address, you will favor, Your friend,

B. A. VAUGHAN.

Practice flows from principle; for as a man thinks, so will he act.

THE DEMOCRAT.

"Our Federal Union—it shall be preserved."

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI.

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1852.

FOR PRESIDENT,
GEN. FRANKLIN PIERCE,
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM R. KING,
OF ALABAMA.

DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL TICKET,

FOR THE STATE AT LARGE,

E. C. WILKINSON, A. M. JACKSON,

W. H. JOHNSON.

DISTRICTS.

J. H. R. TAYLOR, 1st DISTRICT,

W. S. FEATHERTON, 2d DISTRICT,

O. R. SINGLETON, 3d DISTRICT,

HIRAM CASSIDY, 4th DISTRICT.

BY S. E. COHEN, Esq., of Philadelphia, is our authorized Agent to receive advertisements in that city, and receipt for the same.

CAMPAIGN DEMOCRAT.

We propose to issue a campaign paper until after the Presidential election, upon the following terms:

For a single copy, 8 75
For thirteen copies, 6 00
For twenty copies, 10 00
For thirty copies, 15 00

Those who wish to subscribe will please send in their orders previous to the 20th of June next, at about which time the political campaign will be opened.

Subscription to be paid in all cases in advance.

The Young Men's Democratic Association will meet at the Court House this evening at 8 o'clock. A full attendance is desired.

PENMANSHIP.—We have been shown by Mr. Mason several specimens of the improvements of his pupils in this useful and elegant art. Some of them are really astonishing, and all manifest the skill of the teacher and the rapid improvement of pupils. Youths of ten or twelve years of age, who could scarcely write their own names legibly, are taught in a few lessons, to write a free, graceful and beautiful hand. Mr. Mason's second term will commence on Monday next. He is eminently worthy of liberal encouragement. See his advertisement.

COLUMBUS FEMALE INSTITUTE.

The examination of the pupils of the Institute will commence on Wednesday next, the 21st inst., and continue two days. An address will be delivered in the afternoon of the second day by the Rev. J. T. RUSSELL, and a concert will be given by the young ladies of the Institute on Friday evening the 23rd.

Parents and friends particularly and the public generally are invited to attend.

The exercises will take place at the Court House.

MR. VAUGHAN'S ADDRESS.—THE FRANKLIN ACADEMY.—We occupy a considerable portion of our paper to-day with the Address delivered by B. A. VAUGHAN, Esq., at the late examination of the pupils of the Franklin Academy. It is every way a creditable effort, chaste and classic in style and interspersed occasionally with touches of poetic imagery. The thoughts and suggestions are good and appropos to the subject and the occasion. Mr. VAUGHAN, we believe, received his education at this Academy, and the Institution may well be proud of him, both as its Alumnus and its Principal. We think his recommendation to extend the sphere of studies in the schools so as to embrace the classics and other branches of literature and science, an excellent one, and we should be glad to see the Trustees act upon it.

We are happy to learn that the Institution is in a flourishing condition. The strict attention and competency of the teachers in both the male and female departments are acknowledged on all hands, and the general good conduct and rapid progress of the pupils seem to give universal satisfaction.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—We have received the July number of this justly popular magazine. It contains as usual, many very interesting and well written articles. We would notice particularly the opening one on the Armory at Springfield, and the continuation of the Life of Napoleon; the former by John Abbott, and the latter by Jan. S. C. Abbott. The engravings illustrating the Armory are really elegant. The life of Napoleon is brought down to the treaty of Amiens by which a transitory peace was patched up with England. In this number, Napoleon is presented to us in the very amiable and interesting light of being the Restorer of Christianity in France and the "Hero Pacifist" of Europe. Abbott's fault as biographer is that he is too eulogistic but that is a fault which the admirers of Napoleon will readily pardon. He has represented the first Consul to his readers as almost every thing that is superlatively great and good; and we shall soon see how he will manage when he comes to the Emperor.

The attention of the reader is referred to the manifesto on our first page of five leading whig members of Congress from Georgia, Alabama and Virginia in which they positively declare "they cannot and will not support Gen. Scott for the Presidency." Messrs. Gentry and Williams also of Tennessee append a card to the same effect.

THE ATTENTION OF THE READER IS REFERRED TO THE MANIFESTO ON OUR FIRST PAGE OF FIVE LEADING WHIG MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM GEORGIA, ALABAMA AND VIRGINIA IN WHICH THEY POSITIVELY DECLARE "THEY CANNOT AND WILL NOT SUPPORT GEN. SCOTT FOR THE PRESIDENCY." MESSRS. GENTRY AND WILLIAMS ALSO OF TENNESSEE APPEND A CARD TO THE SAME EFFECT.

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GENERAL SCOTT ON SLAVERY.

We are cribbed for room to-day, and have not the space to comment as we had designed, on Gen. Scott's anti-slavery letter which appears on our first page. It however speaks for itself and scarcely needs any comment.

It will be seen from his letter, 1st. That Gen. Scott is in favor of a gradual emancipation of slavery. His impressions are still "fresh and unchanged." 2nd. He believes that Congress, with the consent of the owners and on the payment of just compensation, may legislate at its discretion on the subject of slavery, in the District of Columbia. He qualifies this opinion, however, by saying that it would be dangerous to touch the relation between master and slave in the district unless it be step by step with the Legislatures of Virginia and Maryland.

But worse than all, and what comes up exactly to the views of the abolitionists, he says

3rd. "I am persuaded that it is a high moral obligation of masters and slave holding states to employ all means not incompatible with the safety of both colors, to meliorate slavery, even to extermination."

DEMOCRATIC REVIEW.—The June number of this able monthly has come to hand. We have had time but barely to glance over the contents. It contains an elegant portrait of FRANK PIERCE, our future President, accompanied with a well written and highly laudatory article on the democratic nominee, whose election the reviewer considers absolutely certain. Then follows a searching and sarcastic review of the whig nominee (Gen. Scott) and of the action of convention in his nomination. The other articles in this number are "The Neutrality Law," "Vanity versus Philosophy," "Liquor Legislation," "The Crisis in Europe," "Whigs and Tories—Sketch of party Divisions in England," &c., &c. The Democratic Review is conducted with distinguished ability both in its political and its literary essays.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE for July, which we have just received appears in new type, with new and very superior paper. Besides other embellishments of decided merit, it contains a series of elegant original drawings and engravings of American manufactures—R. Hoe & Co.'s unrivalled printing works. The reading matter is as usual interesting and varied from the pens of some of the best writers of the day. Among other attractive articles, we notice particularly two in this number, viz: "A Life of Vicissitudes" by G. R. P. James & "Impressions of England" by Frederika Brema. Graham is published monthly at \$3 per annum, or \$1.50 for six months, volume, containing at least 700 pages.

WE are indebted to our Senators, Messrs. Adams and Brooks, and to our representatives Messrs. Wilcox, Freeman and Brown for smaller public documents and speeches.

A HINT.—An editor can no more do without his exchange papers than a lawyer can without his brief or a physician without his medicine. Yesterday morning, we left our table, the Nashville American and the Nashville Union, the two latest papers we had received, and the only two we had any immediate use for. We were absent but a short time, and upon our return found both of those papers among the missing. This is exceedingly annoying to us. Gentlemen do not seem to reflect, that the papers of which we are thus deprived are, in nine cases out of ten, the very ones we stand most in need of. We hope this hint will be attended to in future. We always cheerfully loan our exchanges to friends, but we must positively object to their being taken from our table without the knowledge or consent of the editor.

CIRCULATE THE DOCUMENTS.

We would call the attention of the Democratic Association of this place in the following card from the chairman of the President Committee.

The Washington Union says:

"We are glad to know and see the committee is determined to fill its whole duty with energy and with ability. Our cause is good our prospects are brilliant, and our candidates beyond all cavil or exception. BUT WE MUST WORK TO WIN. Let us deserve victory by working hard to achieve it. Our adversaries are attempting to arouse the drooping spirits of their friends throughout the country, and will doubtless resort to every expedient and to every effort to elect Gen. Scott. A prompt, persevering, and general organization of the democracy is all-important; and we are glad to see the National Resident Committee inviting the immediate co-operation of the democratic party of all parts of the Union. We hope they will be responded to."

To the Members of the several Democratic State and County Committees.

The Democratic Resident Committee, appointed by the National Democratic Executive Committee, under the authority of the last Democratic National Convention, have now in course of publication a number of valuable documents for the coming campaign. In order to complete their lists of names, already large, but as full as should be desired, the Resident Committees respectfully ask the chairman of the different democratic States and County committees, and all active democrats throughout the Union, to forward at their earliest convenience such lists of names in their respective localities or districts, with post office attached, as may serve to promote the good of the cause.

WM. M. GWIN.

Chairman of the Resident Committee.

A. P. EDERINGTON, Secretary.

P. S. Democratic papers in all parts of the country are requested to publish.

A WHIG OPINION OF PIERCE.—Mr. Haydon, postmaster at Boston, and late editor of the Atlas, the leading whig paper of Massachusetts, at a recent Webster meeting, said "he had the honor of a personal acquaintance with Franklin Pierce, and he knew him as a good hearted, noble souled fellow. Whoever thought he had the ability to administer the government credibly, or whoever pretends to despise the nomination, or thought it could be easily beaten, would find himself mightily mistaken."

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

We were not present at the Mobile and Ohio Rail Road meeting held at the Court House in this place, last Saturday, nor have we been furnished with any account of the proceedings, but we learn from a gentleman who attended, that much zeal and unanimity of opinion pervaded the meeting—all seemed to be warmly in favor of prosecuting the truly magnificent enterprise promptly, actively and as far as their means and circumstances will justify. This is the right spirit, and it is to be hoped it will prevail generally—may we not say unanimously?—among the citizens of the county. Self interest, that great lever in human affairs, should prompt us to immediate, energetic action in speeding the great work to the full extent of our abilities. We must not stand still while all the rest of the world is going ahead; to do so would in fact be to retrograde. The city of Mobile has voted a tax of, we believe, one million, towards the prosecution of the work, and the road has already been commenced at the southern end under the most happy auspices. We see from the advertisement of the chief engineer and general agent, John Childs, Esq., that he has offered for contract the graduation, masonry and building of the road, extending from Wayne county to the south line of Pontotoc county in this state. The 86 miles below, extending from Wayne county to Mobile, has already been contracted for. Contracts will be made for the line in Noxubee county, at Macon, on the 5th of September next, and at Col. Gilmer's in this county on the 15th of September following.

That the rail road will be completed, and that we shall see it, within a very few years, in successful operation from the southern to the northern terminus, is now, not an opinion merely, but a fixed fact. And its completion will bring with it incalculable advantages to the agricultural and mercantile interests of all the eastern section of the state. It will give a new impulse to trade and business of every kind and add more than a hundred per cent to the value of real estate. Such has been the invincible effect of rail roads in whatever state or country they have been constructed. No other county or town in the state will derive more benefit from the road, than will the county of Lowndes and town of Columbus, provided we can get a branch to this place, which, we suppose, will certainly be done. Surely then it is time for us to put our shoulders to the wheel and act at once and unitedly.

We understand that the meeting of Saturday appointed Gov. James Whitfield, G. R. Clayton, Esq., Col. C. McLaren, W. L. Harris, Esq., and Capt. Wm. Barksdale to go among the people of the county and impress them with the great importance of the road, and show them that it is to their own best interest to contribute liberally to its completion. Very many, no doubt, have not had opportunities of examining the subject carefully, and all may obtain important facts and information in regard to it, from the intelligent gentlemen mentioned above, who, we are told, are expected to act on the occasion.

Another, and quite an important step has been taken. The Board of Police have ordered an election to be held on the 21st of August next, to take the sense of the people of the county as to the policy of levying a tax of one hundred thousand dollars—fifty thousand to go to the main road, and fifty thousand to the branch from this place. We hope our citizens will all make it convenient to attend the polls on that day and vote unanimously for the tax. By so doing, they will in reality be voting to put money in their own pockets.

We may mention here—and in fact we have been requested to do so—that a rail road barbecue will be given at Col. McLaren's mill, on Saturday next, the 24th inst.

HENRY CLAY'S COFFIN.—In anticipation of the decease of the venerable sage of Ashland, Messrs. W. M. Raymond & Co., 536 Broadway, had caused to be manufactured one of Field's much approved patent metallic burial cases, and about immediately accompanying the first announcement of his decease caused a dispatch from Jan. A. Underwood, Esq., ordering the same on to Washington. This case was seen by many citizens, before being sent off yesterday afternoon, and afforded them a melancholy gratification. It is an elegant affair; although to the eye it appears rather short, it nevertheless measures 6 feet 3 inches inside. The interior is beautifully cushioned with white satin. Upon the outside an ample covering of the finest broadcloth is thrown; gathered in a festoon at the breast-plate, and falling on either side like a heavy cloth cloak, where rich silk fringe gracefully gathers it in folds; there are also on each side twelve tassels of similar material, and three handles of solid silver, beautifully wrought. The whole case is surmounted by three massive silver plates, of different design; that resting over the face, (underneath which is an oval shaped plate of glass,) contains an oak leaf and acorn, surrounded by a laurel wreath; the inscription plate, plain and unadorned, in the centre, has an elaborate moulding around it, which is surmounted by the impressive oak leaf and acorn—the acorn has fallen out of its shell, and the leaf is withered; the foot plate represents a large rose in full bloom, just past from the stem whence it had been knaved by a scissel. The case is enclosed in a highly polished mahogany box, lined with silk velvet, and having three handles of brass on each side, projecting from sunken sockets.

Altogether, the case is every way desirable as regards beautiful workmanship and appropriate design; no cost has been spared upon its construction.

CONVENIENT PLATFORM.—The National Era the abolition journal in Washington city—in its comments on the resolutions adopted by the Whig Convention which nominated General Scott says of the fugitive slave law and slavery agitation:

"The question is clearly left open, and the whig convention contemplate two ways in which it might be legitimately renewed; in one for the purpose of amending the laws so as to prevent existing in the other, of so amending it as to avert abuse. The opponents and supporters of the law are left equally at liberty to agitate the subject."

WINFIELD SCOTT.

To Hon. W. S. Archer.

Scott was pledged to his friends not to write, but the cacoethes was too virulent, and he could not forget it. He wrote to say he would not write, but if he should write he would write thus—

There is no parallel for this but the reply of O'Connell to the autograph hunter:

"Sir: You ask for my autograph. As I have made a solemn resolve never to grant such a request, to you or any intermediary of your profession, I refuse your request."

Yours, &c., DANIEL O'CONNELL.

GEN. SCOTT IN BOSTON.

The following extracts from five of the daily whig papers in Boston will show how the nomination of Gen. Scott was received by the whig element of that city.

The news received with evident chagrin.—Transcript.

We fear that if General SCOTT'S CONQUESTS TO THE WHIG PARTY AND THE COUNTRY, in putting the party upon an effort which we conceive to be HOPELESS.—Daily Advertiser.

The announcement in Boston fell like a FURNACE FALL upon the spirit of its inhabitants. Courier.

The nomination fell like a SHOWER OF ICE over the city. The intelligence was regarded as the announcement of a PUBLIC CALAMITY.—Ibid.

A result which is so much at variance with the feelings and wishes of a very large number of the whigs of this state can hardly be supposed to give immediate or general satisfaction.—Journal.

Mr. Clay leaves three sons, no daughters. But one of his sons, Thomas, was with him when he died. He is the eldest and a farmer, residing in Lexington, and near Ashland. He is about fifty years old. James B. Clay, Mr. Clay's second son, and the late Charge of Portugal, is a farmer, engaged in heavy business near St. Louis. He is about 35. John the youngest son, is about 20 years old, and resides at Ashland with his mother. Mr. Clay has had twelve children, and but three of the number survive him. It is said that he has left a competency for his family.

From the N. O. Picayune Extra, of the 5th inst.

AWFUL CASUALTY.

LOSS OF THE ST. JAMES.

Over Twenty Lives Lost.

About three o'clock this morning the Steamer St. James, Captain Thomas Clark, exploded her boilers at Point Aux herbes, on Lake Pontchartrain, and some fifteen or twenty of her passengers, among whom were Judge Preston, of Supreme Court, J. M. Wolf, Mr. Gates, and John L. Sheed, of the Mint were lost.

A gentleman connected with this office was passenger on board the steamer California, and within a few hundred yards of the St. James when the explosion took place. From him we derive the following circumstantial account of the passage from Bay St. Louis, and of the awful casualty.

The St. James left Bay St. Louis at half-past 10 o'clock last night, and in about twenty minutes afterwards the California, Captain H. P. Ensign, also started for this city.

The passengers on board the California got sight of the St. James on entering the Rigolets, and soon after passed her. On getting into about water at this end of the Rigolets, the St. James again caught up with the California and passed ahead. The ill-fated boat had not gone more than a quarter of a mile in advance when her boilers exploded. The scene which ensued was terrible beyond description. The upper part of the St. James was literally shattered to atoms, and the wreck was almost instantly in flames.

The shrieks of those on board the burning boat were heard by the passengers on the California, and, as the flames rose and extended, the suspense and anxiety became agonizing. Capt. Ensign steered directly for the wreck, but the fire was so intensely hot that he was compelled, by a due regard for the persons immediately under his charge, to haul off for a short distance. The boat belonging to the California was launched, manned and went to the aid of the sufferers. Some were in the water and others on the wreck, and as many of the firemen were discovered and were rescued.

The flames rose from the centre of the St. James, and Captain Ensign made a second attempt to reach the persons on the wreck. He succeeded, by skillful management, in getting under the stern, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen gained the decks of the California.

We learn from Mr. Archibald Binney that Judge Preston had his birth over the boilers, No. 24. He was seen to retire to rest, and immediately after the explosion occurred the place where he had been lying was observed to have been shattered to pieces, and he was nowhere to be seen.

GEORGIA.—The Savannah Republican (Whig) makes the following remarks in reference to Gen. Scott's letter of acceptance:

Gen. Scott's Letter.—Our readers have now had an opportunity of examining Gen. Scott's letter accepting the nomination. The telegraphic synopsis of it published Wednesday, led us to infer that he had fully and well defined his position in regard to the Compromise. In this we have been disappointed. He simply says that he accepts the nomination with the resolutions annexed." Mr. Graham, in his letter of acceptance, remarks:

"I cordially approve the declarations made by these resolutions on matters of the most recent practical interests. They do but portray the conduct of an Administration of the Government of which for near two years I have been a member."

Gen. Scott, however, though he says many other things, fails to record his approval of the Compromise. This we regret exceedingly, because it renders wider, deeper, and consequently more impassable, the gulf which separates Southern whigs from those Northern men who support him.

The Albany Atlas has the following bit at the last Scott letter:

How SOFT TO WRITE A LETTER.—Mr. Botts read in the whig convention the following letter from Gen. Scott. It is a curious specimen of political letter writing:

"My dear Sir: I have decided to write nothing to the convention, or to any individual member, before nomination, but, should that honor fall to my lot, I shall, in my acceptance, give my views on the compromise measures in terms at least as strong in their favor as those I read to you two days since. Please say as much to my friends, Gov. Jones, Mr. Botts, Mr. Lee, &c."

In haste, yours, truly,

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ANECDOTE OF WASHINGTON

In the summer of 1776, when the American army was in New York, a young girl of the city went to her lover, one Francis, and communicated to him, as a secret she had overheard, a plan that was in operation among the government men to destroy the American commander-in-chief, by poison, which was to be plentifully mingled with his green-peas, a favorite vegetable of his, on the following day at Richmond Hill headquarters, where he was to dine. Francis, who was a thorough whig, although supposed to be friendly to the royalists, went immediately to Washington and acquainted him with the diabolical plan of his destruction. Washington having listened with attention, said:

"My friend, I thank you; your fidelity has saved my life, to what reserve the Almighty knows! But now for your safety; I charge you to return to your house, and let not a word of what you have related to me pass your lips; it would involve you in certain ruin, and heaven forbid that your life should be forfeited or endangered by your faith to me. I will take the necessary steps to prevent, and, at the same time, discover the instrument of this wicked device."

"The next day, about two hours before dinner he sent for one of his guards, told him the plot, and requested that he would disguise himself as a female, and go to the kitchen, there to keep a strict watch upon the peas, until they should be served up for the table. The young man carefully, observed the directions he had received, and had not been long upon his post of duty, before a young man, another of the guard, came anxiously to the door of the kitchen, looked in, and then passed away. In a few moments after, he returned and approached the hearth where the peas stood, and was about to mingle in the deadly substance, when, suddenly, he shrunk back as though from the sting of the fork-tongued adder, his color changed to the pale hue of death, and his limbs apparently palsied with fear, evidently horror-struck with his own purpose—but soon, however, the operation of a more powerful incitement urged forward his reluctant hand that tremblingly stirred the odious bane, and he left the kitchen, overwhelmed with conflicting passions, remorse and confusion.

"Harold sleeps no more, the cry has reached his heart ere the deed be accomplished," said the youth on duty, in a voice not devoid of pity, as he looked after the self-condemned wretch.

"What, Harold!" said the commander-in-chief, sorrowfully, upon receiving the information, "can it be possible—so young; so fair, and gentle. He would have been the last person upon whom a suspicion of that nature could have fallen, by right of countenance. You have done well," said he to the youth before him. "Go join your comrades and be secret."

"The young man went accordingly, and Washington returned to the piazza, where several officers were assembled, among whom was the hero of Saratoga, who was waiting for further instructions from Congress before he departed for Canada. In a few moments dinner was announced, and the party was ushered into a handsome apartment, where the sumptuous board was spread, covered with all the delicacies of the season.

"The commander-in-chief took his seat, placing General Gates on his right hand, and General Wooster on the left. When the remainder of the officers and company were seated, and eager to commence the duties of the table, the chief said, impressively:

"Gentlemen, I must request you to suspend your meal for a few moments. Let the guard attend me."

"All was silence and amazement. The guard entered and formed in a line towards the upper end of the apartment.

"Washington, having put upon his plate a spoonful of peas, fixed his eyes steadily upon the guilty man, and said:

"Shall I eat of this vegetable?"